THE SIXTH DAY.

Saturday, the 2nd March 1929.

The Assembly met again at 11-30 A. M. on Saturday the 2nd March 1929.

72. Some municipal reforms and problems.

MR. MALUK MAHOMED ABDUL KADIR (*Member, Municipal Council, Attingal*) said that all municipal officers, including Presidents, who had cash transactions should be required to deposit securities. The cash collections of every day should be remitted into the treasury the very same day. For every breach of this rule, the officer responsible should be liable either to such fine as was fixed by Government or to pay such interest as might be deemed fit on the amount kept in hand. For purposes of a special nature for which large amounts were required, Presidents should be permitted with the previous knowledge and consent of the council or of the Government to draw on cheques such amount as was necessary.

The practice of nominating non-official members to municipal councils should be stopped. Councils should have only elected non-official members and nominated official members. There was no constituency behind a nominated non-official member to whom he was responsible for his actions, with the result that he was very seldom a peaceful element in the council. The nominated officials should themselves have no right of voting on any question. They should only be entitled to sit in the council and to give their advice.

Arrangements should be made for annual conferences of all municipal presidents to discuss general questions connected with municipal administration. They might, for example, meet at Trivandrum during the Popular Assembly days. Such conferences and debates would help the standardisation of the rules and bye-laws in force in the several municipalities.

Municipal employees should be "provincialised" and provision should be made for their transfer from one municipality to another.

Every municipality should undertake the maintenance of roads, the establishment of primary schools etc. with the aid of contributions from Government.

Provident funds should be established in place of pensions for municipal subordinates.

Nominated official members should not be allowed to vote in the election of municipal presidents. The president should be elected from among the elected non-official members by themselves.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Every important matter relating to a municipality should be decided by a special meeting of the council, the decision of the majority being final.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Maluk Mahomed Abdul Khadar, of the several matters that you represented one is that municipal employees, instead of remaining under the present system of pensions, should subscribe to provident fund, to be provided with a lump sum at the conclusion of their service. The whole question of provident funds is now engaging the attention of the Government. In that connection the question of provident funds to municipal employees will also be examined.

You ask for the "provincialisation" of municipal employees. By that I presume you mean that municipal employees throughout the State should be borne on a single cadre and should be transferrable from one municipality to another. That will break down completely the individual characteristic of municipalities. They are purely bodies of local men looking after the interests and well-being of a particular localised area and if the municipal council is to have the staff "provincialised" it will mean that the appointment and transfer and disciplinary action in respect of each municipal employee will have to be controlled not by any one particular municipality but by a general body for the whole of the State, possibly the Government. I say that it will detract the local characteristic of municipalities and I do not think that idea can be entertained.

You ask for a conference of municipal Presidents. I think there was such a conference recently at Quilon and the Government will raise no objection in the way of Presidents of municipalities meeting together in conference whenever and wherever they find occasion to do so. It is purely a matter for the municipalities themselves to settle.

There are various other matters you touched upon all of which will require the amendment of the Municipalities Regulation. I am not sure whether you are voicing in those matters your own personal views or whether you are instructed by the Municipality which you represent to place these views before the Government. If the latter is the case, I think the more appropriate course would be for the municipality to pass resolutions on the subject and forward them to the Government. But in regard to such things as the procedure to be followed in the matter of appointments, money and so on, some of your suggestions are useful and they will, for the most part, be covered by the New Municipal Account Code which has recently been framed by the Account Officer.

73. Needs of the Trivandrum taluk.

MR. P. N. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Member, Trivandrum taluk, Group I*) spoke on the following needs of the Trivandrum taluk:—

The lane from Kulathara on the Iranimuttom road to Mangattukadavu should be converted into a cart road and it should be extended to the Iranimuttom hospital.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly